



On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff  
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## Gallaudet has strong presence at 13th International WFD Congress

By Todd Byrd

It's winter in the Southern Hemisphere, but that didn't deter the 4,000-plus people who flocked to the 13th International World Federation of the Deaf Congress, held July 25 to 31 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Gallaudet's Vice President for Academic Affairs Roslyn Rosen, termed the Congress "a smashing success in terms of participation, quality of materials presented, and productivity."

Giving credit to the University contingent that traveled to the land "Down Under," Dr. Rosen, who was re-elected to another four-year term on the WFD Board, said, "Our Gallaudet folks did us proud with their exemplary presentations and astute ambassadorship both in and behind the spotlights."

For example, Rosen conducted a day-long session on deaf women, School of Management Dean Ronald Sutcliffe led a well-attended half-day session on business and entrepreneurship, and Mental Health Center Executive Director Barbara Brauer served as international president for the Commission on Health.

"Of course," Rosen added, "swarms of fans swamped King and Linda [Jordan] everywhere..."

"It was a fabulous conference in a beautiful city and I am proud to have been part of it as a WFD member, presenter, and learner," said Lindsay Dunn, Gallaudet's special assistant to the president for diversity and community relations. Dunn had the added responsibility of coordinating the interpreting schedules for the Gallaudet presenters and for a reception sponsored by Gallaudet, the National Association of the Deaf, and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

Dunn also noted Gallaudet's strong presence at the conference. He said that Trina Baylor, vice president of the Student Body Government, represented the United States, and Liya Yihedgo, vice president of the International Student's Club, represented Ethiopia. He added that Gallaudet is also well represented among the new officers of the WFD Youth Organization with Joe Murray as president, Jolanta Lapiak as vice president, and Yihedgo, who earned the third most votes. Said Dunn, "It shows



Greeting visitors at Gallaudet's exhibit booth at the 13th International World Federation of the Deaf Congress in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, are (from left) Astrid Goodstein, executive director of Enrollment Services, Rosanne Bangura, Enrollment Services marketing specialist and Deaf Way II administrative assistant, Dr. Harvey Goodstein, Mathematics and Computer Science professor and Deaf Way II chair, and Sharon Hayes, program development specialist for the Center for Global Education.

the value of the Gallaudet experience and for many of us it was something to cheer about."

"The presence of Gallaudet [at the WFD Congress] continues to be strong," agreed University Enrollment Services Executive Director Astrid Goodstein, who helped man Gallaudet's exhibit booth at the congress. "At WFD we meet many alumni who are making strides on all fronts. They take leadership roles in education, business, and in the community, and they say that the Gallaudet Experience had a tremendous influence on them and they would not trade it for anything in the world."

Goodstein said that the booth was the scene of many impromptu reunions for old friends to meet and reminisce. She also gave credit to the many faculty, students, and staff who volunteered to work at the booth and provide information about the University. Details were also given about the Deaf Way II festival slated for July 2002, and tremendous interest was expressed. "This is the best selling point about Gallaudet: Our people are our jewels," said Goodstein.

The next International Congress will be held in 2003 in Montreal, Canada. **G**

## Tree removal eases strain on Hanson Plaza

By Todd Byrd

Since the mid-1970s, the stately willow oak trees and linden trees that graced Hanson Plaza were a lovely sight to behold by students who walked past them on their way to the cafeteria. Their weight was also putting a serious strain on the structural condition of the Plaza.

During the second week of August, 13 of the trees were removed to check the damage that they were causing.

The cutting was done by Davey Tree Co., the firm that does most of the work on Kendall Green's approximately 1,500 trees. According to Larry Ott, director of Gallaudet's Physical Plant Administration, Davey recently completed an inventory of all the trees on campus and recorded it in a software package. "This will allow us to better manage the health and condition of the trees, and to record and track the work such as fertilization, pest management, and pruning," said Ott.

This is not the first time that willow oaks have been removed from Hanson Plaza. Three were taken out in recent years because they did not thrive there. "These

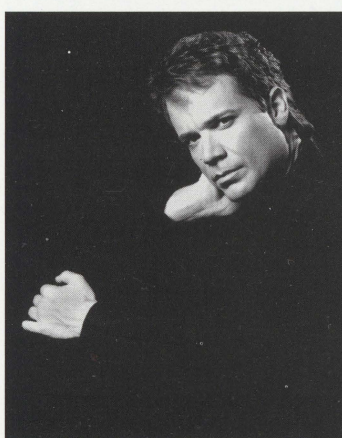
large trees growing on the Plaza had always been a horticultural mystery to landscape professionals because the root area—the soil on top of the parking garage—was very disproportionate to the size of the trees," said Ott. "We feel it is most prudent to remove them at this time before further damage occurs to the structure of the Plaza, and especially before an accident would occur with a tree falling on someone."

The trees will be replaced with ornamental trees of smaller proportions, for example, Japanese maples, crabapples, and magnolias. **G**



A worker removes the stump of one of the 13 large trees that were cut down on Hanson Plaza.

## Beethoven comes to Gallaudet



Wayne Bethanis

By Mary Thornley  
The life of Ludwig van Beethoven will be traced in a riveting multimedia performance by Wayne Bethanis in Elstad Auditorium at Gallaudet University on October 15 at 7:30 p.m. A video wall will provide a camera shot of Bethanis' face and hands, a music scroll of the actual notes being played, a light pulse keeping time with the music, and a vibrational system for each audience member to kinesthetically experience Bethanis and Beethoven.

"We have never had an event like this," noted Gallaudet Theatre Department Chair Jeffrey Grandel. "We're looking forward

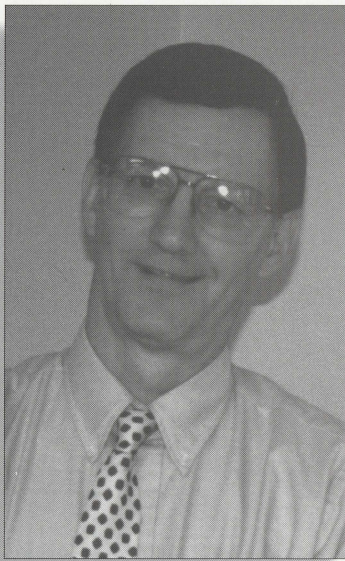
to having Bethanis on campus."

Bethanis said the idea of performing Beethoven at Gallaudet occurred to him while playing for his paternal grandmother. "My grandmother sat in a chair a few feet from where I practiced piano for hours every day of my childhood. She could not hear very well but she took delight in the music and my passion for music."

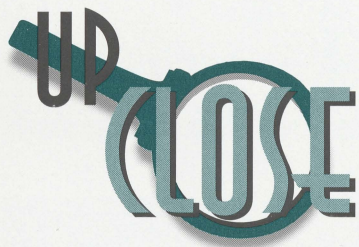
Bethanis is the youngest person ever to have been granted a Ph.D. in music by the prestigious Claremont Graduate School in Los Angeles. His world-wide virtuoso tour begins with the Gallaudet performance, which is expected to be televised. The production is being filmed and submitted to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in the documentary category for Oscar consideration.

Bethanis' concert performances are being scheduled for Asia, Europe, and South America, followed by an extensive U.S. tour. Tickets for the Gallaudet performance at Elstad Auditorium are free but must be reserved by contacting Jo Rackham at the Theatre Arts Department x5501 (voice) or x5502 (TTY). Seating is limited. **G**





Kurt Schneidmiller



By Mike Kaika

## Kurt Schneidmiller—Big Brother


**K**urt Schneidmiller, a 20-year employee of Gallaudet who serves the University as director of the Office of Institutional Research, also makes helping at-risk kids a priority. Kurt belongs to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America (BBBSA), a program that provides one-to-one mentoring between caring adults and at-risk children.

When Kurt was living in the D.C. area, he was on the board of directors of a foster care agency, but when he moved out to Point of Rocks, Md., it was not possible for him to continue on the board. Nonetheless, "I wanted to do something with my spare time that would help my community and the kids in the community," said Kurt. So he signed on with BBBSA, which has over 500 agencies in all 50 states, and was matched up with a 14-year-old boy.

"You don't have to give a lot of time to being a big brother, but you must have a commitment to the program," said Kurt. On weekends, he sets aside part of one day to be with his little brother. "He likes history," said Kurt, "so recently we have been going to the Civil War battlefields in this area. We also have been to Middletown (Md.) to watch a group of rocket enthusiasts launch their rockets." Kurt added that when he is at home on week-day evenings, he and his little brother will occasionally chat on the phone.

Since many of the children in the program are from single-parent homes, a primary goal of the BBBSA program is to try to help the kids stay out of trouble and to stay in school. "This is one of the most beneficial programs in the country for children," said Kurt, who currently serves as vice president of the board of the Frederick, Md., BBBSA, "and the statistics prove it."

"I would like to see more men and women become involved in a program like this," said Kurt. "Spending a little time with a young adult can make a world of difference to the child, and when you see the positive results, it makes you feel like you have made a significant contribution."

For more information about becoming a Big Sister or a Big Brother, visit this website: [www.bbbsa.org](http://www.bbbsa.org). 



Heavy equipment eats into a section of MSSD's Residence Hall A in late July. The building was demolished with the same equipment that was used to tear down Hughes Gym earlier this summer. Due to structural problems that caused RHA to deteriorate over the years, the University decided that it would be more economically feasible to raze it rather than repair it.

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

*U.S. News and World Report's* year 2000 guide, America's Best Colleges, which hit newsstands on August 24, ranks Gallaudet number one as a best value, offering quality education at an affordable price. Listed under the heading "Great Schools at Great Prices," Gallaudet rated at the top among universities in the Northern region of the United States. The magazine also ranked the University 15th overall among liberal arts universities in the region. Gallaudet is a frequent contender in *U.S. News'* annual university ratings.

The Department of Social Work was presented with a "Meritorious Service" award by the Maryland Association of the Deaf in August at the MDAD's

conference in Baltimore. The award recognizes the contributions made by graduates of the program not only in Maryland but across the country, according to Department Chair Janet Pray.

As a result of a new partnership between Gallaudet and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, Gallaudet will host Irish students, who will study here under the auspices of the new Fulbright Scholarship in Deaf Studies, while a Gallaudet graduate student will travel to Ireland to further his or her education there. The partnership is the result of a chance meeting last year between ASL, Linguistics, and Interpretation professor Ceil Lucas and Ireland's President Mary McAleese, who has a deaf brother.



## ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Dear Aunt Sophie,

Recently I got into an argument with someone—not anyone from Gallaudet—over whether or not federal funds should be used to support the University. The person I was arguing with thinks that government money should not be given to Gallaudet because only a very small fraction of deaf and hard of hearing people attend school here and it's not fair to the thousands and thousands of those who can't or don't want to go here. What do you have to say about this view?

Wondering

Dear Wondering,

Hogwash and fiddlesticks! That's what I have to say about your friend's line of reasoning. Of course Gallaudet cannot accommodate every deaf and hard of hearing person in the country. It was never intended to do so. Like West Point, Howard

University, and other federally-funded institutions of higher education, Gallaudet was established for a very specific purpose: to educate tomorrow's deaf and hard of hearing learners. Check the record—we have been doing just this for 135 years.

How anyone could question spending U.S. dollars for this purpose is beyond me, especially when one notes some of the other items listed in the current federal budget: \$6.7 million to study the feasibility of reusable elastic stockings; \$240,000 for a two-headed stethoscope; and my personal favorite—\$26,500 to improve the packaging of fly paper!

If you have a burning question that you would like to ask Aunt Sophie, e-mail her at [Public.relations@gallaudet.edu](mailto:Public.relations@gallaudet.edu). Be sure you say your question is for Aunt Sophie.



## AMONG OURSELVES

Dr. Dirksen Bauman has joined the Department of Deaf Studies as an assistant professor.

The Summer 1999 edition of *On Campus with Women*, published by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, features an interview with Vice President for Academic Affairs Roslyn Rosen.

Dr. Constantina Mitchell has been named acting chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures for the fall 1999 semester, while Department Chair Mark Weinberg is on sabbatical.

Dr. Walter Trafton has been named chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics, replacing Dr. Michael Moore, who is pursuing other faculty responsibilities and commitments.

Check out 'On the Green's' Web version

Many of the articles and photographs that appear in each week's issue of *On the Green* can also be read in *On the Green's* Web version, the online version of Gallaudet's faculty/staff newsletter. *On the Green's* Web version can be accessed through the University's homepage.



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98-342M

## Congressional Basketball Classic

When: September 29, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.)  
Where: Field House  
Admission is FREE.  
Everyone is invited.



# PCNMP HAPPENINGS


## PCNMP announces new book on assessing deaf children's literacy

**P**re-College National Mission Programs announces the publication of its latest literacy product, *Starting With Assessment: A Developmental Approach to Deaf Children's Literacy*, by Martha M. French. The two-volume set describes how to assess the literacy skills of deaf children, and provides a "toolkit" of useful forms that teachers and others can copy for classroom use.

This landmark text, which is based on the premise that effective instruction must be geared toward each student's learning needs, provides a clear, comprehensive look at assessing those needs, describing skills, and determining instructional goals. The text begins by presenting principles to guide assessment based on current theories about learning. The author then moves on to discuss the development of

language and literacy, building a developmental picture that accounts for individual needs and skills while noting where each child fits within a broad framework for development.

Subsequent chapters and their closely-related appendices describe tools and strategies to help teachers assess reading, writing and conversational language; and for involving the children, their parents, and others in the process. The text concludes with a look at the benefits and possible drawbacks of current approaches, and discusses guidelines and methods for literacy planning, instruction, and record keeping.

The set is \$39.95. For additional information, call x5340; (800) 526-9105 (v/tty); fax (202) 651-5708; or e-mail: pcnmp.products. 



## Stu • dent • sau • rus

(steo • dant • soar • us) n. 1. a special breed of inquisitive men and women who Gallaudet recruits, retains, and educates. 2. pizza-eaters.

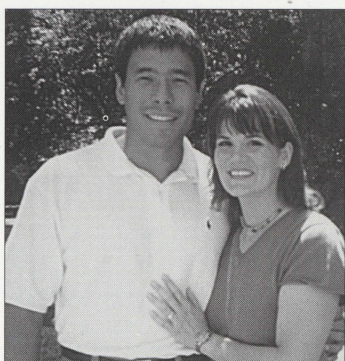
## 'Gallaudet has played a major role in fulfilling my dreams'

By Todd Byrd

**A** teacher of deaf students told Beth Folsom that it was extremely rare for a hearing mother and her hearing daughter to both sustain severe hearing losses from illness—and both at the age of 3.

Growing up in rural North Carolina, Beth and her mother shared the common bond of "being on the sidelines," said Beth, missing out on conversations and not feeling accepted by the community. Beth's mother had the additional burden of single-handedly raising two children. Landing a job was difficult: "Sorry, ma'am, if you can't hear to answer the phone, we can't hire you," was a common refrain.

Fortunately, she found work at the county library and later a printing company. There, she found her niche and developed her skills in computer graphics. While she and her sister grew up, Beth's mother attended college part-time, earning her B.A. Today she is working on her master's



Beth Folsom, a graduate student and CCE employee, with her fiancé, Ed Garcia, who she met during 1998 Summer Programs ASL sessions.

degree and owns her own desktop publishing company.

"She is my inspiration!," said Beth. Following her mother's lead, Beth also broke out of the confines of a small town to follow her dream. Today she works at Gallaudet, in the College for Continuing Education. She is a logistics technician in the Office of Summer Programs, the same program that brought her to Gallaudet as a student in 1998. While attending summer school last year, Beth met the man of her dreams and they are now engaged to be married.

Life couldn't be more promising for Beth right now. She said, "Gallaudet has played a major role in fulfilling my dreams." It is a bit unnerving when she thinks that

she almost followed the discouraging advice of a former Gallaudet professor who told her that she "shouldn't go to Gallaudet." In fact, she was in the process of moving to San Francisco, when she got the priceless opportunity to attend Gallaudet for summer classes.

After graduating from high school, Beth worked in various management positions in fast food and retail businesses. In 1991, she began working at Polo Ralph Lauren where she stayed for seven years, conducting research as a product flow analyst. During her employment there, her boss recognized her potential and gave her special training and more responsibility. "That built up my self-esteem and encouraged me to go back to school," said Beth. While working full-time, she pursued a double-major in psychology, "I thought that I'd work with deaf and hard of hearing adults who, like me, had skills and didn't know it, and they were being bypassed by the system." After obtaining her B.S. she began researching graduate programs. "I was interested in Gallaudet, but I was told that I wouldn't be accepted—socially, anyway, because I am hard of hearing."

Beth decided instead to pursue a master's in deaf education at University of California, Berkeley, in Oakland. She planned on learning sign language at VISTA College once she began the program at UCB. However, her VR counselor insist-

ed that she learn ASL before starting her studies. The counselor showed Beth the Gallaudet Summer Programs catalog, with its two-week long intensive ASL program for non-signers and signers of all levels. Beth remembered the negative comments she had heard about Gallaudet, but the bright yellow, sunshine-covered catalog interested her enough to change her mind.


"As soon as I arrived on campus, I fell in love with it! I said, 'Oh my gosh! This is just as beautiful as San Francisco and nothing like I had been warned about,'" Beth recalled. "I remember that first Sunday at registration, I was so elated—tears of joy ran down my face. To finally be at Gallaudet, for the first time in my life, meant understanding."

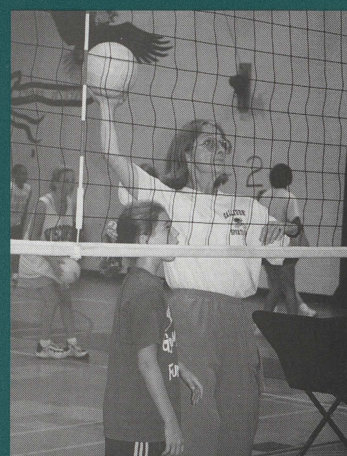
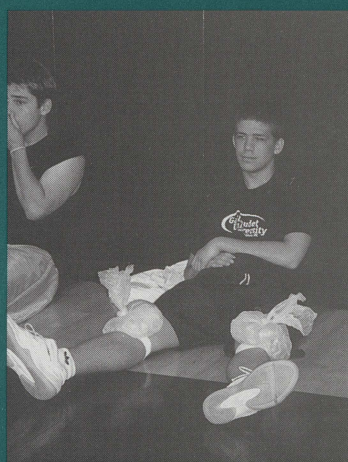
Beth was busy learning ASL and making friends during her first two weeks of class. But she was not too busy to notice a man whom she thought was particularly handsome. The gentleman was Ed Garcia, a West Point graduate who served as a captain in the U.S. Army before deciding to become a medical doctor. Ed is currently a student at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md. However, last summer he was taking ASL courses to improve his signing skills, because he had always had an interest in learning the language.

A mutual friend wanted to introduce Beth and Ed, but she declined on the grounds that "if we are destined to meet, I want it

to happen naturally." Classes were almost over when karma intervened. He was standing in line ahead of her at the cafeteria, and she worked up the courage to say hi and asked him if they could sit and eat together. The rest of the story is history: The two hit it off, and one year later, he proposed to her at a special spot on campus.

Since October, Beth has enthusiastically worked for Summer Programs, and it allows her to interact with many people. "I particularly love helping deaf and hard of hearing people find out more information about sign language and Gallaudet. These individuals feel that something—mainly the ability to communicate clearly—is missing from their life. I love to share knowledge with them, resources that they need to help them become the person they want to be—the same thing that happened to me."

Beth's career goals are still the same, except that now she intends to gain more experience and knowledge at Gallaudet. She is also working on her master's degree in administration and supervision. When she completes that degree in 2001, she wants to obtain another masters and her Ph.D. And, she continues her efforts to become fluent in ASL. "I've found this beautiful new way to communicate meaningfully," she said. "Signing is the most priceless experience I have ever known." 



Gallaudet's 1999 Summer Sports Camp drew the largest audience in the program's six-year history. This is not surprising, organizers believe, considering the consistent high quality of the camp. "The Gallaudet Sports Camp is a beneficial teaching opportunity for youth across America to get together and learn various skills and practices taught by experienced coaches," said Department of Athletics Coordinator James DeStefano. **FROM LEFT (TOP):** A basketball camper takes a break from a hard practice session to ice-down his knees; for the first time, a coed soccer lineup, led by Elijah Gold and Larry Musa (foreground), was offered; **(BOTTOM)** a van's graffiti expresses the excitement of campers from the Missouri School for the Deaf; volleyball coaching legend Peg Worthington gives tips to a young enthusiast.



## Crime, chemistry, and punishment: deaf children learn about science

By Mary Thornley  
The floor was littered with broken glass, dirty footprints, and spilled powders. Someone had broken into the lab overnight. When the children arrived for their second day of science camp, the lab was sealed off with yellow tape.

Whodunit?

In 1996, when Martha Absher, outreach director of the Duke School of Engineering, was at the White House receiving a Presidential Award for her work mentoring students in engineering, science, and math, she conceived the idea of a summer camp for deaf and hard of hearing children.

Absher sent brochures to all parents of deaf students in the Durham (N.C.) Public Schools introducing the Summer Enrichment program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students. She also created an internship with Gallaudet which brought six students or recent alumni, Jason Lamberton, Larry Pearce, Raymond Merritt, Deanna Cook, Michael Saunders, and Jimmie Dixon, to conduct research at Duke University and mentor the students.

Funded for two years by the National Science Foundation, the intensive two-week program

attracts more than a dozen students ages 5 to 17 for nine hours a day, encouraging them to consider careers in engineering, science, and math. Absher continues to provide speakers and activities throughout the school year for the area's more than 100 deaf and hard of hearing students.

How to hook the students' interest? Stage a break-in!

Excitedly, the young detectives set to work fingerprinting, collecting hair samples, shoe prints, a suspicious powder, and a handwritten list of chemicals in the

vandalized lab. They analyzed the handwriting, tested the ink and powder, and studied the hair. Five suspects were isolated and interviewed, their fingerprints and hair samples taken, and a deduction was made on who had done the dirty deed—Ben, a graduate student, who wanted to steal the necessary components to make a pain reliever.

Ben was tried and convicted.

The students also toured Duke laboratories and watched magic shows and scientific demonstrations led by Gallaudet chemistry professor Charlene Sorensen. **G**

## Starting out right at Gallaudet: Culture and Language Colloquium

By Mary Thornley  
Dominique McLaughlin's first year of graduate study at Gallaudet got off on a rocky start.

Having broken her left leg playing sports, Dominique arrived at Gallaudet in 1996 just as classes began and limped miserably around the campus, unable to communicate except through an interpreter. "When I got here I didn't know any sign at all!" Dominique remembers. "I didn't even know how to say, 'Hi!'" She thought, despairingly, "What am I doing here?"

Like many Gallaudet programs, the Culture and Language Colloquium is designed to prevent experiences such as Dominique's. However, the Culture and Language Colloquium is not only for those who may need a grounding in ASL.

Today, as a Gallaudet graduate and coordinator of the CLC, Dominique urges all new gradu-

ate students to enroll in the program.

The major component of CLC is a two-credit class involving lectures and small group discussions in which students learn about deaf culture and its powerful impact on the values and beliefs of individuals, and the potential for misunderstandings among members of various communities in a diverse society. Students also can elect to study a foreign sign language for three weeks before classes begin.

Some speakers and topics for this CLC include Carolyn Emerson's "Deafness and Race in America," Dr. Benjamin Bahan's "What ASL Stories Tell Us About Culture and Identity," and MJ Bienvenu's "Myths About ASL."

Student evaluations confirm that CLC is an extremely important experience to have prior to beginning graduate studies at Gallaudet. **G**

## NOTES FROM PERSONNEL

### Service awards for July

*Five years:*

**Rosanne Bangura**, marketing specialist

*Twenty years:*

**Dr. Kenneth Epstein**, associate professor/administrative computer coordinator; **Richard Sheddick**, receiving clerk

*Thirty years:*

**Brenda Rawlings**, GRI acting director

*Forty years:*

**Dr. Ronald Sutcliffe**, dean

### New employees hired in July:

**Ashley Moore**, occupational therapist, PCNMP; **Jeffrey Wolfe**, development associate, Development Office;

### Michael Brecheen, PE

researcher/teacher, PCNMP;

**Nefitiri Fellows**, instructor, English; **Christopher Heuer**,

instructor, English; **William**

**Millios**, assistant professor,

Math and Computer Science;

**Zoltan Szekely**, assistant professor,

Math and Computer

Science; **Tania Thomas-**

**Presswood**, associate professor,

Psychology

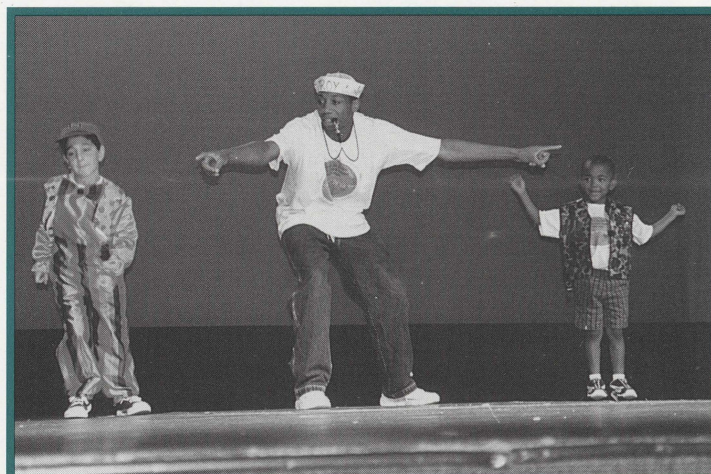
### Promotions in July:

**Kathleen O'Brien**, personal

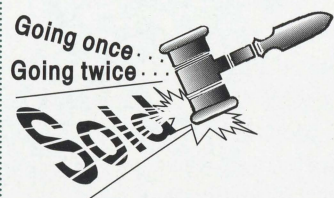
counselor, PCNMP; **Daniel**

**Kirby**, director, Construction

Services



At the Children's Instructional Camp's closing ceremonies on August 6, dance instructor Troy Miles puts on a skit with campers.



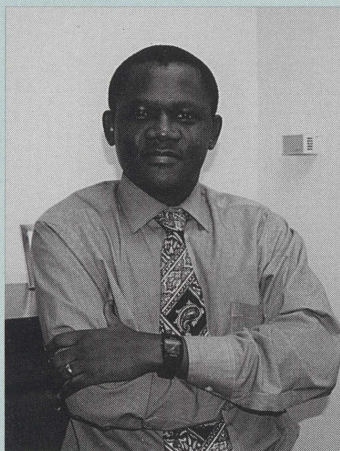
**FOR RENT:** Room in home 2 blocks from Glenmont Metro, fenced yard, prefer female non-smoker, \$400/mo. inc. util., call (301) 933-4007 or e-mail Gracelips@aol.com.

**FOR SALE:** 6-piece bedroom suite; black lacquer finish with gold accent trim; headboard (full to queen), 2 night tables, dresser, mirror, and armoire/ wardrobe; like new; contemporary design; solid and sturdy; full-size bed-frame, mattress and box spring inc.; \$795. Call Anita, x6514, or e-mail anita.fleming.

**FOR SALE:** '91 Buick Century Limited, 40k mi., leather, ABS, new tires, brakes, and battery, in storage 4 yrs., on road last 3, mint cond., \$6,800/OBO, Call Elaine, x5288, or (301) 627-7654.

## ROVING REPORTER

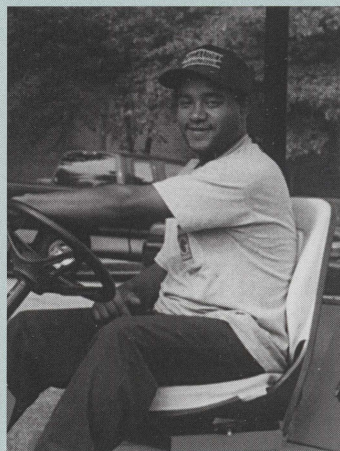
*So, what have you been doing to enjoy the summer?*



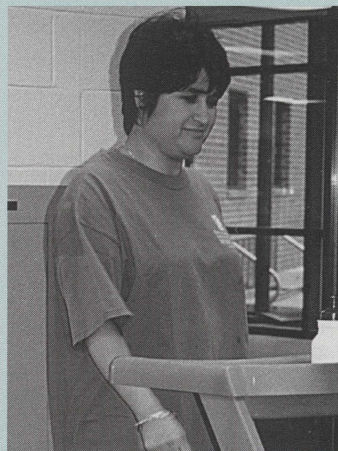
**Slemo Warigon**, director of Information Technology Services: My family and I participated in a lot of outdoor activities, including golf, soccer, tennis, roller-blading, biking, and summer camps for our kids. I also spent time in Southern California with family, read novels, and meditated regularly.



**Teddy Ewan**, clerk with the Office of the Director of Demonstration Schools: The best thing I did this summer was to take three weeks off; it was the first time I've done that in 19 years!



**Nebiyu Nega**, Physical Plant groundskeeper: I didn't go on any vacations; I'm saving my annual leave for a trip to Ethiopia to visit my family. My favorite summer activity was to go to the yard sales at Eastern Market on Saturday mornings.



**Maggie Madeo**, data entry staff member for Graduate Admissions: I really enjoyed going to the pool with my daughter, Camila, after a hard, hot day. She's 2-1/2 and she really loves the water. Also, taking her to the movies this summer was fun too.